

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-09 EPA-01 /024 W
-----070389 190552Z /13
R 181046Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9424

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PASS EPA FOR DON OAKLEY

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, IR, USIRJC
SUBJ: WALLEN ASSIGNMENT TO IRAN

REF: STATE 175535

1. IN MEETING JULY 13 WITH MANUCHEHR FAIY, DR. I.
EUGENE WALLEN, JOINT COMMISSION OFFICER AND SCIATT REVIEWED
PLANNED TWO YEAR ASSIGNMENT OF DR. WALLEN, ASSOCIATED
COSTS AND SCOPE OF WORK.

2. MEETING WAS VERY POSITIVE WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION BEING
CONTENT OF JULY 3 LETTER FROM SCIATT TO FAIY SUGGESTING
THAT DOE MUST DEPOSIT BALANCE OF TWO-YEAR ASSIGNMENT
COSTS WITH EPA BEFORE OCTOBER 20.

3. FAIY STATED HE UNDERSTANDS U.S. DESIRE TO HAVE
ADEQUATE COVERAGE FOR ASSIGNMENT COSTS; HOWEVER, HE DOES
NOT WISH TO APPROACH GOI FOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DOLS
140,000 AND ESTIMATED TWO-YEAR ASSIGNMENT COST OF
DOLS 260,000 (NEW ESTIMATE BY EMBASSY/WALLEN).
RATHER, FAIY, NOTING THAT DOLS 140,000 WAS NOT EAR-
MARKED FOR SPECIFIC EXPENSES BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH, 1979,
BY WHICH TIME DOE'S NEW BUDGET WILL INCLUDE THOSE
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ADDITIONAL COSTS NECESSARY TO CARRY DR. WALLEN AND
ADDITIONAL SHORT TERM EXPERTS OVER THE NEXT YEAR.
THUS, PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF NEXT IRAN YEAR'S BUDGET,
WALLEN COSTS WILL BE PAID FROM DOLS 140,000. FAIY
ASSURES THAT THIS FUND WILL ALWAYS BE ADEQUATE TO COVER
AT LEAST A THREE MONTH PERIOD IN ADVANCE.

4. ACCORDING TO FAIRLY, PBO EVEN IN MOST PESSIMISTIC BUDGET SITUATION HONORS ONGOING INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND WOULD NOT STOP THEM IN MIDSTREAM. IN TIGHT BUDGET SQUEEZE, ONGOING DOMESTIC ITEMS WILL BE CUT BEFORE INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT FOR TECHNICAL EXPERT IS TERMINATED.

5. FAIRLY WAS NOT INTERESTED IN JUSTIFICATION OR EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATED COSTS FOR EXPERT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HIS IS MATTER FOR DEPT AND EPA, AND THAT DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT WOULD ACCEPT AS REIMBURSABLE RECEIPTED PAYMENTS WHICH ARE APPROVED AND PRESENTED BY EPA THROUGH WALLER TO DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT OR GOI.

6. EMBASSY SUGGEST THAT THE FOLLOWING COST ESTIMATE, REFLECTING SIGNIFICANT ALLOWABLE COSTS FOR WALLER TWO-YEAR ASSIGNMENT, BE APPROVED BY EPA FOR EMBASSY GUIDANCE: SALARY AND BENEFITS, DOLS 63,000; TRAVEL, 12,000; MOVING EXPENSES, 5,000; HOUSING, RENTAL 23,000; AUTO, DRIVER AND MAINTENANCE, 17,000; ADMIN EXPENDITURES FAA'S COST 10,000, TOTAL DOLS 130,000. PER ANNUM EMBASSY PREPARED TO ASSIST EPA IN DEVELOPMENT OF METHOD OF BILLING TO ASSURE MAINTENANCE OF CUSHION. THREE MONTH CUSHION BELIEVED SUFFICIENT TO TERMINATE PROJECT IF NECESSARY. EMBASSY WILL SUPPLY SUPPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SERVICES FOR WALLER ASSIGNMENT.

7. EMBASSY ENDORSES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE APPROACH BEING IMPLEMENTED BY EPA TOGETHER WITH DOE FAIRLY, WHO SEEMS VERY PLEASED WITH WALLER ASSIGNMENT BEGINNING OCTOBER 1978 FOR TWO YEAR PERIOD. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT FINANCIAL ASPECTS BE CLEAR IN ADVANCE OF ASSIGNMENT TO MAINTAIN CURRENT POSITIVE SPIRIT OF TECHNICAL AGREEMENT.

8. EMBASSY PREPARED TO ASSIST WALLER AND EPA IN PRESENTATION OF BILLINGS ON ANY SCHEDULE DETERMINED BY EPA BUT SINCE PAYMENTS WOULD BE IN DOLLARS DEPOSITED IN WASHINGTON, EFFECTIVE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE LIMITED TO FORWARDING CHECKS VIA POUCH TO EPA. ACCEPTANCE OF LOCAL CURRENCY AS A FORM OF PAYMENT WOULD REQUIRE SPECIFIC APPROVAL OF U.S. TREASURY AND THE USDO, RFC, PARIS FOR EACH PAYMENT TO AVOID SETTING PRECEDENT IN MATTER OF PAYMENT FOR USIRJC ACTIVITIES. FROM PAST EXPERIENCE WITH LOCAL CURRENCY PAYMENTS FOR USIRJC ACTIVITIES WE HAVE FOUND TREASURY MOST RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT LOCAL CURRENCY SINCE

AGREEMENTS SPECIFY PAYMENT IN DOLLARS. GIVEN THE
SCOPE OF USIRJC ACTIVITIES ACTIVE AND PLANNED, WE
EXPECT THAT TREASURY DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE IRAN GO
ON TO THE "EXCESS CURRENCY" LISTINGS IN LATER YEARS.
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Message Attributes

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